

“Linchpin” - Part 6: Passing the Baton (8-19-2018)

New Series: Linchpin - A Study of the Book of Deuteronomy: Know what anchors you, and living accordingly!

Review: Overview, Grabbing the Baton, Running our Race: Love God, Love People, Character Matters

Today: Passing the Baton

Introduction: Michael Phelps & the relay team

1) Passing the Baton is about giving your life away . . . to Others

Moses & Joshua in the tent of meeting . . .

Deuteronomy 31:14-16a (ESV)

And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him." And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. (15) And the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent. (16) And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers."

Notes: Moses poured his life into Joshua, by having Joshua with him. And now He is being given the baton as leader

Deuteronomy 31:16-21: The people are going to constantly mess this up . . .

Deuteronomy 31:23 (ESV)

And the LORD commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you."

Notes: It takes courage to live a godly life & pass the baton. People are difficult, but they are worth it.

It is good & right for us to learn to live for more than ourselves . . .

Your life matters, but it's a part of something larger (Both essential ideas!)

Throughout Deuteronomy the people are spoken to as a whole - past, present, & future

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

(18) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Notes: As you go discipleship (which is gospel sharing, gospel teaching, and gospel living) participates in the Eternal Kingdom . . .

2) Passing the Baton is about giving your life away . . . to an unseen (but not uncertain) Future

Transfiguration: Most common passage taught is Matthew chapter 17

- Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves
- Jesus was transfigured before them, shining face and white clothes
- Moses and Elijah, talking with him.
- Peter said to Jesus, Let's make three tents and stay right here!

Luke 9:28-33 (ESV)

(28) Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. (29) And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. (30) And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, (31) who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (32) Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. (33) And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said.

Notes:

- **It's personal . . . Jesus meets w/ Moses & Elijah** (talk about their life & unique deaths . . . didn't see the final outcome, yet!). These guys has invested their lives into a future that was a long way off, that they never saw!
- **Waking up to His Glory . . .** It was prayer time, but they were heavy with sleep, BUT when they became fully awake - They saw Jesus glory and the 2 men with him!
- **Give Him your moments . . .** Peter wants to capture this moment. That's such a natural reaction to something special, we want to stop and bottle it up, but in Jesus all of those moments are kept. **Instead, we are called to always live in view of these moments: Hebrews 11 & 12**

Hebrews 11 - a summary of that same Law & Prophets that Moses & Elijah are a part of & represent . . .

Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2)

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Remember early in the series: All the Law & Prophets hang on this! (Linchpin)

The same word for **Hang (Linchpin)** is used throughout the New Testament to describe Jesus hanging on the cross!

3) Passing the Baton is about giving your life away . . . to Jesus

John 12:23-25 (ESV)

(23) And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Notes:

- He is answering a question by his disciples about some Gentiles who wish to meet him
- This seems absent minded, but it's connected!
- He is prophesying about himself. He is the linchpin! Upon which others will find eternal life
- And now we get to participate in that, by passing our life in Jesus on to others . . .

He says something very similar to his followers, right before going up on the Mountain at his transfiguration . . .

Luke 9:23-24 (ESV)

(23) And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (24) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Conclusion:

Legacy isn't what you do at the end of your life; it's the story you tell with your life. And your life is His, so . . .

Give your life away to Jesus, pass the baton to others, and trust Him with an unseen future . . .

Today and always!